GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2244
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN INDIAN EMBASSIES IN GULF
Nayak Smt. Archana

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of staff in the Indian Embassies in the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large number of complaints from the NRIs are pending in the Indian Embassies in the Gulf countries for want of sufficient staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of a study undertaken by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance, a proposal for creation of 287 posts in a number of Indian Missions/Posts abroad is under consideration of Ministry of Finance. This includes 87 posts in the Indian Missions/Posts in the Gulf.

(c), (d) & (e) There are some instances of delay in addressing the complaints of NRIs in the Gulf countries. However, the Missions/Posts in the Gulf are doing their best to address their complaints despite the shortage of staff. In fact, Indian Missions/Posts in the Gulf have introduced, with effect from April 2006, provision of free legal aid for two hours twice a week to Indian workers for resolving their labour related problems. Indian Missions in Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have also set up, as a welfare measure, Indian Citizen Welfare Funds for providing financial assistance to Indians in distress, medical assistance to needy Indians, air tickets for repatriation of stranded Indians to India, temporary accommodation for stranded housemaids and transportation of mortal remains of deceased Indians.